

December 29, 2011

The meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council, extended from December 8, 2011 to adopt the Budget for 2012. The meeting was called to order @ 7:00 PM Thursday, December 29, 2011 in the Town Hall with President Dale Show presiding.

Members Present: Dale Show, James McDonnell, Kim Shaffer, Robert Bell, Sam Banales, Tom Freeman. Absent was Robert Helterbran.

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Solicitor George Welty.

President Show noted that this meeting is an extension of the Regular Monthly Meeting of December 8, 2011. It is an open meeting for all business that may occur but primarily for budget 2012.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Finance Chairman Robert Bell spoke of the proposed budget 2012 with a 1 mill increase leaving with a balance of \$88.81.

Solicitor Welty explained that if Council finds everything to be in order with the proposed 2012 budget the motion must be to adopt the budget for 2012 with Tax Ordinance #552 – Real Property Tax.

Councilman Sam Banales questioned why the revenue from the sale of the water and sewage treatment plant to the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County in 2006 cannot be applied to balance the budget? Why do we need to increase even 1 mill?

Dale Show explained that the sale of the water/sewer was intended to turn it into an asset. The idea was to use the interest from the sale and maintain the principle. This was decided by Council when it was sold that the funds would not be used for the budget.

Councilman James McDonnell added that Michael Foreman, Local Government Policy Specialist, provided the Borough with a listing of what you can and cannot do with the proceeds from the sale of the water and sewer plants. McDonnell quoted that Foreman advised the Borough to "retain the proceeds for as long as possible for future generations to benefit from the one-time sale because once the funds are spent there is no replenishment".

Resident Steve Reale asked council if there were specific cuts within departments such as labor or services to come up with the 1 mill increase instead of the proposed 2.5 mill increase.

He was told that 8 hours per week would be cut from the police budget at the discretion of police Chief John Berger and the mayor. It would not be public knowledge to what hours of each day that would be on-call.

Reale stated that as a homeowner he would feel more confident if the Borough had coverage 24-7.

Councilwoman Kim Shaffer replied that the Borough would have 24-hour police coverage, but certain hours each day would be covered on an on-call basis. 911 will be directed who to call.

Further discussion ensued with several residents voicing their concerns.

A motion was made by Robert Bell and seconded by Kim Shaffer to adopt the 2012 Budget with Tax Ordinance #552 increase of 1 mill (23.5 mills). The motion carried with 5-1 with Sam Banales opposing.

Attorney Richard Flickinger submitted a letter pertaining to the decision of Planning Commission about Giant Eagle sign size.

Due to just receiving the letter, Council decided to look over the letter and it will be on the agenda for the January 2012 re-organization meeting.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Robert Bell and seconded by Kim Shaffer to adjourn. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Paul A Fry  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Office Manager